

## A NETWORK DEVICE FOR SAMPLING A PACKET

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network device for sampling a packet. The network device  
5 comprises a processor. The network device also comprises an input  
interface for receiving a plurality of packets, wherein the input interface  
comprises at least one input port. At least one input port is configured to  
sample at least one input packet and transmit a sampled input packet to the  
processor. The network device also comprises an output interface for  
10 transmitting a plurality of packets, wherein the output interface comprises at  
least one output port. At least one output port is configured to sample at  
least one output packet and transmit a sampled output packet to the  
processor. The network device also comprises a switching fabric coupled  
to the input interface and the output interface, wherein the switching fabric is  
15 configured to transmit a packet between the input interface and the output  
interface.